

PATERNALISM CONTRARY TO DEMOCRACY

It is departing very far from American custom to look to the government for help in every emergency, says the Christian Science Monitor. It is, in fact, contrary to the spirit of democracy to under estimate the

ability of the individual to help himself. At the present time there is apparent a widespread agitation toward paternalism. Even if the government had the disposition to meddle in everything, it has not more than a fraction of the power that individual effort can create.

While many people fail to realize it, the blighting season of paternalism has been pushed to the front recently in this country under different guises, a good illustration of which is the cry for health, unemployment and old age insurance, state banks run at cost, etc., etc. These

are the entering wedges and it would be but a short while before a formerly free American citizen would be come accountable to a public official for his every act.

Let us remain ambitious Americans and not become objects of charity.

MINE TAXATION PROBLEM

The last Utah legislature enacted a 3 per cent occupation tax affecting mines only and they now refuse to pay nearly a million dollars state tax for 1918 under that one sided law. Several western states that have been very prosperous owing to big war metal productions of the mines are planning legislative action looking to further taxation of mines.

Within a few years normal prices under world peace will leave the mines in no condition to pay the big

war taxes and legislators may kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

The mining industry in most western states is the greatest source of prosperity, besides paying the bulk of state taxes and federal war taxes for some years to come.

One thing is certain, unless a state constitution provides for taxing special classes of property, an occupation tax on mines alone will not stand. It is dangerous class legislation.

DON'T HANDICAP AMERICA NOW

"We are on the eve," says Emil Deen, the well known oil man, "of tremendous developments throughout the world regarding petroleum. At this time we should think in world terms, and see whether American fields are capable of doing much more in the way of output."

"Oil is a close second to steel in

a way. It is a sort of coregent of steel, or dominating the economic world in concert with steel."

With an ever increasing world demand for petroleum, the oil industry of the U. S. is handicapped by the refusal and delay of our national legislators to recognize the seriousness of the situation and encourage American oil operators by the passage of legislation opening thousands of acres of withdrawn lands and passing relief measures permitting operation of properties already developed in good faith in these lands.

Why handicap America now?

Animals Refuse to Eat.

In the Edinburgh zoo there is a crocodile which is content with a rat or a piece of horseflesh every fortnight. There is an anaconda which arrived recently and has since steadily refused to take food of any kind, an example of abstinence surpassed, however, by an Indian python, which during its thirteen months' stay has not voluntarily taken food.

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TO CANCEL CITIZENSHIP OF ALIENS WHO WERE DISLOYAL

DENVER, Dec. 14.—Steps have been taken by the U. S. Naturalization service in Denver to cancel certificates of citizenship of naturalized aliens who have been disloyal to the United States during the war. The Denver district includes the states of Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. United States attorneys for these states have been asked to furnish the names of naturalized Americans who have been tried and convicted of espionage, resisting the draft, opposition to war measures of the United States, or other violations of similar laws.

"We have already been informed of one naturalized citizen in Wyoming who was so pro-German during the war that we will proceed to have his citizenship canceled in court," said Paul Armstrong, chief of the Denver district of the Naturalization Service. "Unofficial information has been received that there are several others in the state in this district."

"In addition to the naturalized citizens, there are scores of aliens, some of whom have filed declarations of intention of becoming citizens of the United States, who have been found to be very anti American during the war. In one instance about a score of Austrians from Leadville were sent to prison for their anti draft activities. Smaller numbers have been removed from civil life in other places. As to these steps will be taken to make sure that their anti American activities will be brought to light if they should ever apply for citizenship in the future. It is unlikely that a judge would care to naturalize an alien in the future who has shown such antagonistic feelings

during the days of this country's supreme test.

"Several native born citizens have been tried and convicted in this district for obstructionist activities but these we cannot reach. There is some indication that these disloyal citizens will be reached by Congress in the near future, when laws may be passed forever debarbing from citizenship all persons, whether native born, naturalized citizens or aliens, who have been found guilty of opposing the United States in its conduct of the war. Until that time, however, the sentiment and attitude of each local community is the only punishment that can be meted out to these native born citizens."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

During the recent naturalization of soldiers in the U. S. army, a husky Pole in uniform was asked what reason he had for enlisting. He explained that his old home was near the German border and one winter about five years ago he and a friend got in a saloon fight with four Germans because they yelled "Down with the Czar first, and then down with the Kaiser." The two Poles were cleaning up on the four Germans when some German police came in an appearance, and the fracas was broken up by the Poles making speed back out of Germany. They knew the German officers would have them arrested and brought back, however, so they got together some money and came to the United States where they continued to work.

"I am here in the army so I can go back and finish up on those four Germans," said the Pole.

Exceptions to All Rules.

In so complex a thing as human nature, we must consider it hard to find rules without exceptions.